

<b>Title of Lesson Plan</b>	To Clear or Not To Clear, That Is the Question
<b>Prepared By (first and last name)</b>	James Marzec
<b>City and State</b>	Whitinsville, MA
<b>Grade Level(s)</b>	11-12 (but can be used in a 10 <sup>th</sup> grade Biology class.)
<b>Keywords (subjects covered)</b>	Ecology, environmental science, bioethics, environmental ethics, earth science, engineering
<b>Brief Description</b>	<p>Students will be grouped into groups of 4. The group will be given a map that delineates land they have received as an inheritance. The area has water resources (a lake, a stream, and a river in the nearby area), as well as several acres of a forested area. The area contains a primarily hardwood stand (oaks, maples), as well as a white pine stand. In addition, students will be given a list of animals that have been found in the area, such as skunks, deer, rabbit, coyotes, foxes, and squirrels. In addition, students will be given the various types of birds that have been seen in the area, as well as other animals (turtles, for example). The land will have some highland areas (small hills), as well as some flat areas. There is no access currently from the area to the main road. The area is in an area that has no municipal water or sewer system. Students, using their research skills, will have to figure out what to do with the land (keep it or develop it). Students will be given the going rates for timber, road construction costs, top soil costs, tax rate of the community, population of the community, resources currently available (stores, shops, restaurants) and an amount of money that they currently have (which would only allow students to keep the land undeveloped for 10 years). Students will utilize the current laws and regulations within Massachusetts to formulate their decision. Students need to come up with a model of their plans, and be able to discuss their views in front of a panel of students acting as the Planning Committee. Students will be required to submit their plan in web based form so that others in the class can view it and critique it.</p> <p>Pictures of the animals in the area will be given to the group, and a topographic map will also be available.</p>
<b>Total Time Required</b>	The activity will take between 3-5 periods of 60 minutes each, depending upon how well the groups function together.
<b>Setting</b>	Classroom; students placed into groups of 4

**Lesson Plan Disclaimer**

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<b>Lesson Objectives/Goals</b>	The objectives of this lesson are to have students struggle with making and defending a potential real-life situation. In addition, students will have to apply the laws and regulations to conform with the standards.
<b>Materials Needed</b>	Computers, books, library
<b>Standards Addressed</b>	MA Earth Science (HS)-2.1,2.2,3.4 Science Inquiry Skills 1-Earth Science Technology/Engineering Standards (HS)-1.4,1.5,2.6
<b>Procedure</b>	Please see the summary above
<b>Assessment</b>	Presentation with a rubric used; webpage with a rubric used
<b>Literature Cited/References</b>	Sources vary, however students will be shown where to obtain the zoning regulations for their community, as well as Mass. General Laws.
<b>Forestry Tour Attended</b>	Northeast Tour-2007

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